SAVE THE DATES!

2015 Forum
Chicago, IL
June 23-25, 2015
Renaissance Blackstone
Chicago Hotel

2015 Policy Briefing
Des Moines, IA
December 8-10, 2015
Des Moines Downtown
Marriott Hotel

Funder-Only Webinars:
January 22, 2015 at 12:00pm PST | 3:00pm EST
Reforming Animal Agriculture. Part 2: A Change of Course (Co-Sponsored with EGA)

February 3, 2015 at 11:00am PST | 2:00pm EST
Measure to Manage (M2M): Farm and Food Diagnostics for Sustainability and Health

SAFSF FINANCES
SAFSF grew programmatically and operationally in 2014. We brought on 3 additional staff members, including one at a remote location, which means we are now operating two offices, and we launched our Annual Policy Briefing in Washington, DC in December. All of this growth translates financially to a net operating deficit. However, we started 2014 with a strong operating surplus, and we have been able to maintain a liberal reserve. We expect to continue to grow our revenue in 2015 without significant increases in expenses. The SAFSF Steering Committee provides strong financial oversight, ensuring the organization continues on solid financial footing.

FY14 End-of-Year Financial Snapshot (as of November 30, 2014)
Total Revenues to date: $615,178
Total Expenses: $690,261
Beginning Balance: $472,045
Net operating surplus (deficit): ($75,083)
Total Funds: $396,962
* Reserve Fund: $300,000
Adjusted Net Assets: $96,962
SAFSF is fiscally-sponsored by New Venture Fund. www.newventurefund.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
One of our members wrote me this fall to say, “What a long way this organization has come since I joined.” Indeed! Our network has undergone numerous changes over the last few years, and we are stronger as a result. Consider that SAFSF is now closing in on one hundred members—19 new members this year alone. As of October 2014, we are a bi-coastal staff of six, operating in two offices, working with nearly a dozen consultants from coast to coast. We now host two major annual convenings: our much-anticipated Annual Forum in June, and our new Policy Briefing in December.

During this past year, well over a hundred funders—YOU, members and non-members alike—helped to ensure that a multitude of issues, voices, experiences, and perspectives were visible in SAFSF’s work. Your leadership and service is vital to our success. Whether you have been on one of our governance or program committees, helped plan, moderate, or speak on one of our many learning calls, or a Forum or Policy Briefing workshop; or introduced SAFSF to your networks of artists, activists, filmmakers, policymakers, funding partners, and others, you have made a difference in our work. SAFSF exists by, for, and because of you.

Over this past year, SAFSF staff and Steering Committee (current and former) devoted considerable time to review, reflect, and re-craft our organizational vision, mission, and values, seeking input from our members at multiple stages along the way. Our goal was to renew and make more explicit our long-standing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to do a better, more concise, and clearer job of communicating the why, how, and what of our work. These conversations have been invaluable and are the heart and soul of this network. The new vision, mission, and values statement can be found on our website under “Who We Are.” I am mindful of the many professional and personal challenges this past year brought to so many within our network. On a personal note, I want to express my gratitude for the true kindness and ongoing support so many of you have showered on my family as we deal with ongoing illness. Your words and actions help us to find and celebrate so many moments of joy and wonder along with what is sometimes rocky medical journey. A very special thank you to our tremendous staff for their support and care, as well as their grace and wherewithal in stepping forward, as I have had to take a step (or three) back.

Last year, I closed my note by encouraging all of us to remember that life is not a dress rehearsal. Given what I know today, all I can say to that is AMEN!! May 2015 be life-affirming and bring peace and blessings to all.

With great appreciation,
Virginia Clarke, Executive Director
NEW MEMBERS IN 2014

ARMONIA LLC
FAIR FOOD NETWORK
FLEMINING FAMILY FOUNDATION
GAIA FUND
GLOBETROTTER FOUNDATION
JOHNSON FAMILY FOUNDATION
KINSHIP FOUNDATION
LEICH'TAG FOUNDATION
MIDGEY FOUNDATION
NOTAH BEGAY III FOUNDATION
RUSSELL FARM AND FOREST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
THE CERES TRUST
THE CONSERVATION FUND
THE GERMSHAUSEN FOUNDATION
THE ORGANIC CENTER
THE SIMON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
WALTER S. MANDER FOUNDATION
WHYHURGER
ZEGAR FAMILY FOUNDATION

NEW STAFF

2014 saw our staff numbers double! Virginia, Bridget and Huyen are pleased to welcome Abbie, Eric, and Dylan, who bring with them talent, energy, creativity, and good humor.

ABBIE NISSENSON

Abbie Nissenson officially joined the SAFSF staff in January 2014 in a part-time capacity, after having completed several projects for SAFSF as a consultant since 2011. She received her Master’s in Public Policy and Management from the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon University. It was while living in Pittsburgh that Abbie learned about urban farming, spending time visiting friends and volunteering on an organic farm in the Morningside neighborhood. Abbie received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

ERIC ASHTON

Eric Ashton joined SAFSF in June 2014 as the special projects coordinator. Based in Philadelphia, Eric oversees SAFSF’s Creating Common Ground project and policy briefing work. He brings more than twenty years of significant professional experience with both the federal government and the nonprofit sector, and has an extensive background in nonprofit volunteer work in the areas of HIV/AIDS, adolescent homelessness, and domestic violence.

DYLAN TOMPKINS

Dylan joined the SAFSF team in October of 2014. He is a recent graduate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received his bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Professional Writing with an emphasis in Business Communication. While at UCSB, Dylan spent time working with the Associated Students Office of the President as the Commissioner of Sustainability, where he represented UCSB students and environmental organizations in various staff and faculty committees.

NOT A MEMBER YET?

Our members often speak to the value of SAFSF membership: special member-only calls and activities, registration discounts, annual Member Directory, and more.

"...Understanding what is happening with other groups in different areas or what is happening nationally is always hard to grasp. SAFSF has been one of the BEST (if not the best) affinity groups we have joined. We are a small foundation, so we count each operating dollar very wisely, and SAFSF has really helped us in our grant making, our work with other local funders, and our board education as well. I suggest that as you move ahead, you may want to check out SAFSF. IT IS A FABULOUS resource." - Interested in learning more about membership? Contact Huyen Nguyen (805-687-0551 or huyen@safsf.org).

INaugural Policy Briefing Highlights

In December, SAFSF launched a new initiative, the Inaugural Policy Briefing in Washington, D.C. The theme of this year’s event was Building Power: From Kitchen Tables to Capitol Hill. Over 40 funders and 30 non-funder speakers had time to reflect on their work and the direction of sustainable agriculture and food systems policy at the local, regional, and national level. Eric Ashton, SAFSF’s new Special Projects Coordinator, serves as the staff lead for the Policy Briefing alongside Carol Pickering at Dietel Partners who serves as the Chair of the Policy Briefing Planning Committee.

Highlights from the two-and-a-half-day event included in-depth workshops on the fundamentals of the policy process and community organizing; an inspirational keynote address by Jane Kleeble, founder of BOLD Nebraska; plenary sessions about community engagement and the intersections around food and health; and workshops on topics ranging from corporate concentration in the food system to trade policy and immigration reform. At the close of the event, a group of funders took advantage of their time in D.C. and met with White House policy advisors, congressional staffers, and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). SAFSF is grateful to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) for their assistance in arranging the meetings.

The Policy Briefing was developed in response to your desire to understand more about how to shape policy and become a voice in the policy arena. During this first year we have explored many different ways to engage in policy, and we look forward to continuing this learning in the future. We would like to thank all the planning committee members and sponsors of this event.

We hope you will join us at the next Policy Briefing, December 8-10, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa!

Our vision, mission, and values define who we are. They provide the fundamental structure for the organization. They guide our actions and our behaviors. They influence the way we work within the organization and with others. Our vision, mission, and values, described below in detail, were developed through a process of reflection with the SAFSF staff and Steering Committee (current and former), and with additional input from SAFSF members. The purpose of this process has been to make more explicit our long-standing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to do a better, more concise, and clearer job of communicating our work.

The 21st century food movement has the opportunity and, we believe, the responsibility, to include and engage the full range of people and communities in moving forward. Equity work requires planning, commitment and continual reflection. It is multifaceted and, to be effective, involves “walking the talk,” changing the self as well as the system. It is controversial. Equity work is about fundamental change, which is often vigorously resisted. Those who benefit from the way society is currently organized, or who are unaware of the pervasiveness of discrimination, or who are simply comfortable with the status quo, are often reluctant to contemplate new ways of doing things. For SAFSF this work is not optional—it is essential and must be woven into the strategic plans and life of our organization as well as the whole of the good food movement. We believe SAFSF can play a valuable role in fostering the philanthropic leadership that is critical to bring together the individual and collective ideas and resources to ensure a vibrant, healthy, and just food system for all. While this is often uncertain, SAFSF strives to approach the work with a sense of joy by building relationships, embracing diverse ideas and voices, and appreciating that solutions and reform only come about when there is a collective sense of inclusion.

Networking for a vibrant, healthy, and just food system

VISION

SAFSF envisions a world in which food and agricultural systems enhance and sustain the well-being of people, animals, and our planet—now and into the future.

MISSION

To create networking, educational, and collaboration opportunities for the philanthropic community working to support vibrant, healthy, and just food and farm systems.

VALUES

Values drive our organization on an everyday basis. We use these values to guide our decision-making process in all our work, from developing programs and hiring new staff to choosing caterers and hotels. We are committed to seeing these values embedded in everything we do. The word “sustainable” is part of our name; it encompasses environmental, economic, and social concerns, and we feel a sustainable future must incorporate all of these values.

- COLLABORATION: the action of working with someone to produce or create something
- EQUITY: fairness and justice in the way people are treated
- RESPECT: to hold in esteem or honor
- STEWARDSHIP: the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving
- INTEGRITY: the state of being whole and undivided

SAFSF values and incorporates: Specificity, Openness, Transparency, Inclusivity, Collaboration, Respect, Equity, Energy, Sustainability, Discovery, Learning, and Creativity. To SAFSF, integrity refers to consistency in actions and values as well as the state of being whole. An ecosystem’s balance is disturbed when parts of the system are missing. Our success as a network—and the success of the food movement more broadly—in building a healthy and just food system for all depends on our interconnections, honesty, and working with integrity.
Education as well.

local funders, and our board and SAFSF has really helped us in one of the BEST (if not the best) registration discounts, annual Member membership.

JOHNSON FAMILY FOUNDATION
FLEMING FAMILY FOUNDATION
NOTAH BEGAY III FOUNDATION
RUSSELL FARM AND FOREST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
THE CERES TRUST
THE CONSERVATION FUND
THE GERMESHAUSEN FOUNDATION
THE ORGANIC CENTER
THE SIMON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
WALTER S. MANDER FOUNDATION
WHYHURGER
ZEGAR FAMILY FOUNDATION

Our mission, vision, and values define who we are. They provide the fundamental structure for the organization. They guide our actions and our behaviors. They influence the way we work within the organization and with others. Our vision, mission, and values, described below in detail, were developed through a process of reflection with the SAFSF staff and Steering Committee (current and former), and with additional input from SAFSF members. The purpose of this process has been to make more explicit our long-standing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and do a better, more concise, and clearer job of communicating our work. The 21st century food movement has the opportunity and, we believe, the responsibility, to include and engage the full range of people and communities in moving forward. Equity work requires planning, commitment and continual reflection. It is multifaceted and, to be effective, involves “walking the talk,” changing the self as well as the system. It is controversial. Equity work is about fundamental change, which is often vigorously resisted. Those who benefit from the way society is currently organized, or who are unaware of the pervasiveness of discrimination, or who are simply comfortable with the status quo, are often reluctant to contemplate new ways of doing things. For SAFSF this work is not optional—it is essential and must be woven into the strategic plans and life of our organization as well as the whole of the good food movement. We believe SAFSF can play a valuable role in fostering the philanthropic leadership that is critical to bring together the individual and collective ideas and resources to ensure a vibrant, healthy, and just food system for all. While this is often hard and uncertain, SAFSF strives to approach the work with a sense of joy by building relationships, embracing diverse ideas and voices, and appreciating that solutions and reform only come about when there is a collective sense of inclusion.

Networking for a vibrant, healthy, and just food system

VISON
SAFSF envisions a world in which food and agricultural systems enhance and sustain the well-being of people, animals, and our planet—now and into the future.

MISSION
To create networking, educational, and collaboration opportunities for the philanthropic community working to support vibrant, healthy, and just food and farm systems.

VALUES
Values drive our organization on an everyday basis. We use these values to guide our decision-making process in all our work, from developing programs and hiring new staff to choosing caterers and hotels. We are committed to seeing these values embedded in everything we do. The word “sustainable” is part of our name; it encompasses environmental, economic, and social concerns, and we feel a sustainable future must incorporate all of these values.

• COLLABORATION: the action of working with someone to produce or create something

The food system is too big and complex for any one individual, organization, or political entity to change. We must work in partnership with others. No matter what aspect of the food system our members fund, some amount of their success relies on parts of other systems—social, economic, educational, and/or political—also shifting. We need each other. By facilitating connections between funders, organizing events, and offering platform opportunities, SAFSF’s mission is to support more collaborative processes to develop.

• EQUITY: fairness and justice in the way people are treated.

We strongly believe that all lives are improved when there is a focus on equity. We want to help create a society that is fair and just in the way people are treated. To date, much of the funding for food system change has gone to predominantly white, middle- to upper-income class communities. We believe that if we are to have food and agricultural systems that enhance and sustain the well-being of people, animals, and our planet, then we must always consider the impacts on those who have been most marginalized by the industrial food system. Those communities are often rural and/or communities of color that too often have been sidelined. These communities bring rich traditions of connection to the land, and their histories and cultures are an untapped resource and backdrop for mobilizing a new generation of leaders.

• RESPECT: to hold in esteem or honor

All people, animals, and the planet must be treated with respect. There are many sources of knowledge, perspectives, strategies, and approaches active in creating and sustaining a vibrant, healthy, and just food system for all. Without respect, we cannot get to a place of trust; and without trust, we cannot have meaningful collaboration. By honoring each other, the natural world, and ourselves we can work together to develop a better food system.

• STEWARDSHIP: the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving

Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. We believe in protecting and caring for the resources entrusted to each of us, whether those resources be farmland, financial wealth, or anything else. Practicing stewardship requires us to look carefully at resources and power in rewards and larger systems.

• INTEGRITY: the state of being whole and undivided

To SAFSF, integrity refers to consistency in actions and values as well as the state of being whole. An ecosystem’s balance is disturbed when parts of the system are missing. Our success as a network—and the success of the food movement more broadly—in building a healthy and just food system for all depends on our interconnections, honesty, and working with integrity.

NEW STAFF

2014 saw our staff numbers double! Virginia, Bridget and Huyen are welcomed to welcome Abbie, Eric, and Dylan, who bring with them talent, energy, creativity, and good humor.

ABBIE NISSENSON
Abbie Nissenson officially joined the SAFSF staff in January 2014 in a part-time capacity, after having completed several projects for SAFSF as a consultant since 2011. She received her Master’s in Public Policy and Management from the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon University. It was while living in Pittsburgh that Abbie learned about urban farming, spending time visiting friends and volunteering on an organic farm in the Morningside neighborhood. Abbie received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

ERIC ASHTON
Eric Ashton joined SAFSF in June 2014 as the special projects coordinator. Based in Philadelphia, Eric oversees SAFSF’s Creating Common Ground project and policy briefing work. He brings more than twenty years of significant professional experience with both the federal government and the nonprofit sector, and has an extensive background in nonprofit volunteer work in the areas of HIV/AIDS, adolescent homelessness, and domestic violence.

DYLAN TOMPKINS
Dylan joined the SAFSF team in October of 2014. He is a recent graduate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received his bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Professional Writing with an emphasis in Business Communication. While at UCSB, Dylan spent time working with the Associated Students Office of the President as the Commissioner of Sustainability, where he represented UCSB students and environmental organizations in various staff and faculty committees.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2014
ARMONIA LLC
FAIR FOOD NETWORK
FLEMMING FAMILY FOUNDATION
GAIA FUND
GLOBETROTTER FOUNDATION
JOHNSON FAMILY FOUNDATION
KINSHIP FOUNDATION
LEICHTAG FOUNDATION
MIXIE FOUNDATION
NOTAH BEGAY III FOUNDATION
RUSSELL FARM AND FOREST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
THE CERES TRUST
THE CONSERVATION FUND
THE GERMESHAUSEN FOUNDATION
THE ORGANIC CENTER
THE SIMON CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
WALTER S. MANDER FOUNDATION
WHYHURGER
ZEGAR FAMILY FOUNDATION

NOT A MEMBER YET?
Our members often speak to the value of SAFSF membership: special member-only calls and activities, registration discounts, annual Member Directory, and more.

"...Understanding what is happening with other groups in different areas or what is happening nationally is always hard to grasp. SAFSF has been one of the BEST (if not the best) affinity groups we have joined. We are a small foundation, so we count each operating dollar very wisely, and SAFSF has really helped us in our grant making, our work with other local funders, and our board education as well. I suggest that as you move ahead, you may want to check out SAFSF. It is a FABULOUS resource." Interests in learning more about membership? Contact Huyen Nguyen (805-687-0551 or huyen@safsf.org).

INAUGURAL POLICY BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTS

In December, SAFSF launched a new initiative, the Inaugural Policy Briefing in Washington, D.C. The theme of this year’s event was Building Power: From Kitchen Tables to Capitol Hill. Over 40 funders and 30 non-funder speakers had time to reflect on their work and the direction of sustainable agriculture and food systems policy at the local, regional, and national level. Eric Ashton, SAFSF’s new Special Projects Coordinator, serves as the staff lead for the Policy Briefing alongside Carol Pickering at Dietel Partners who serves as the Chair of the Policy Briefing Planning Committee.

Highlights from the two-and-a-half-day event included in-depth workshops on the fundamentals of the policy process and community organizing; an inspirational keynote address by Jane Kleeb, founder of BOLD Nebraska; plenary sessions about community engagement and the intersections around food and health; and workshops on topics ranging from corporate concentration in the food system to trade policy and immigration reform. At the close of the event, a group of funders took advantage of their time in D.C. and met with White House policy advisors, congressional staffers, and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). SAFSF is grateful to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) for their assistance in arranging the meetings.

The Policy Briefing was developed in response to your desire to understand more about how to shape policy and become a voice in the policy arena. During this first year we have explored many different ways to engage in policy, and we look forward to continuing this learning in the future. We would like to thank all the planning committee members and sponsors of this event.

We hope you will join us at the next Policy Briefing, December 8-10, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa!
ensuring the organization continues on solid financial footing.

SAFSF FINANCES

SAFSF grew programmatically and operationally in 2014. We brought on 3 additional staff members, including one at a remote location, which means we are now operating two offices, and we launched our Annual Policy Briefing in Washington, DC in December. All of this growth translates financially to a net operating deficit. However, we started 2014 with a strong operating surplus, and we have been able to maintain a liberal reserve. We expect to continue to grow our revenue in 2015 without significant increases in expenses. The SAFSF Steering Committee provides strong financial oversight, ensuring the organization continues on solid financial footing.

FY14 End-of-Year Financial Snapshot (as of November 30, 2014)

- Total Revenues to date: $615,178
- Total Expenses: $690,261
- Beginning Balance: $472,045
- Net operating surplus (deficit): ($75,083)

Total Funds: $396,962
- Reserve Fund: $300,000
- Adjusted Net Assets: $96,962

SAFSF is fiscally-sponsored by New Venture Fund. www.newventurefund.org

WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE NETWORK:

- “I truly appreciate this collection of people, personalities, and passion.”
- “Reaching out to our extended philanthropic community has just made one hell of a good (new) wave!”
- “I wouldn’t miss being a part of this group!”
- “I am always impressed by the way SAFSF gathers so much useful information.”
- “It is a real privilege to know the work I do supports greater work making a real impact on issues I care about.”
- “The discussions were rich and the group had a sort of contagious fun quality that made our time working together fly by.”

SAVING THE DATES!

2015 Forum
Chicago, IL
June 23-25, 2015
Renaissance Blackstone
Chicago Hotel

2015 Policy Briefing
Des Moines, IA
December 8-10, 2015
Des Moines Downtown Marriott Hotel

Funder-Only Webinars:
January 22, 2015 at 12:00pm PST | 3:00pm EST
Reforming Animal Agriculture. Part 2: A Change of Course (Co-Sponsored with EGA)

February 3, 2015 at 11:00am PST | 2:00pm EST
Measure to Manage (M2M): Farm and Food Diagnostics for Sustainability and Health

13TH ANNUAL EAT HERE DINNER

At the funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities annual meeting, join us for the 13th annual Eat Here Dinner.

March 16-18, 2015
Omni Los Angeles Hotel
Los Angeles, CA

Register at www.fundersnetwork.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of our members wrote me this fall to say, “What a long way this organization has come since I joined.” Indeed! Our network has undergone numerous changes over the last few years, and we are stronger as a result. Consider that SAFSF is now closing in on one hundred members—19 new members this year alone. As of October 2014, we are a bi-coastal staff of six, operating in two offices, working with nearly a dozen consultants from coast to coast. We now host two major annual convenings: our much-anticipated Annual Forum in June, and our new Policy Briefing in December.

During this past year, well over a hundred funders—YOU, members and non-members alike—helped to ensure that a multitude of issues, voices, experiences, and perspectives were visible in SAFSF’s work. Your leadership and service is vital to our success.

Whether you have been on one of our governance or program committees; helped plan, moderate, or speak on one of our many learning calls, or a Forum or Policy Briefing workshop; or introduced SAFSF to your networks of artists, activists, filmmakers, policymakers, funding partners, and others, you have made a difference in our work. SAFSF exists by, for, and because of you.

Over this past year, SAFSF staff and Steering Committee (current and former) devoted considerable time to review, reflect, and re-craft our organizational vision, mission, and values, seeking input from our members at multiple stages along the way. Our goal was to renew and make more explicit our long-standing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to do a better, more concise, and clearer job of communicating the why, how, and what of our work. These conversations have been invaluable and are the heart and soul of this network. The new vision, mission, and values statement can be found on our website under “Who We Are.”

I am mindful of the many professional and personal challenges this past year brought to so many within our network. On a personal note, I want to express my gratitude for the true kindness and ongoing support so many of you have showered on my family as we deal with ongoing illness. Your words and actions help us to find and celebrate so many moments of joy and wonder along what is a sometimes rocky medical journey. A very special thank you to our tremendous staff for their support and care, as well as their grace and wherewithal in stepping forward, as I have had to take a step (or three) back.

Last year, I closed my note by encouraging all of us to remember that life is not a dress rehearsal. Given what I know today, all I can say to that is AMEN!! May 2015 be life-affirming and bring peace and blessings to all.

With great appreciation,

Virginia Clarke, Executive Director